

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 L-03 HA-05 EB-08 SIL-01 LAB-04
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044206

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EINV, SF, US

SUBJECT: RUMORED CONSIDERATION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 415

1. ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE OF SEVERAL PIECES OF DRAFT
LEGISLATION (BOTH BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS) WHICH ARE AT
VARIOUS PRELIMINARY STAGES OF CONSIDERATION ON HOUSE
SIDE OF CAPITOL HILL. NONE, HOWEVER, CONSTITUTES BROAD-
GAUGE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. VARIOUS PIECES OF LEGISLATION,
MOST OF WHICH HAVE YET TO BE CONSIDERED EVEN IN RESPECTIVE
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SUBCOMMITTEES, ARE DIRECTED AT INDIVIDUAL ASPECTS OF U.S.
:CONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, AND NUCLEAR RELATIONSHIPS WITH
SOUTH AFRICA. THERE IS NO LEGISLATION COVERING ANY OF
THESE AREAS ON WHICH HOUSE FLOOR ACTION IS IMMINENT, AND
WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME IDENTIFY ANY PROSPECTIVE LEGISLA-
TION WHICH WE CAN NOW SAY APPEARS TO HAVE STRONG CHANCE
OF PASSAGE.

2. MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE WAS ONE DAY OF HEARINGS BY SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE CONCERNING EXIMBANK ACTIVITIES RE SOUTH AFRICA. HEARING WAS HELD IN ANTICIPATION OF MID-MARCH MARKUP OF EXIM REAUTHORIZATION BILL. ANOTHER DAY OF HEARINGS ON THIS

SUBJ:CT IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY MARCH. BILLS AND PROSPECTIVE AMENDMENTS NOW PENDING IN SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD, IF INCORPORATED IN LEGISLATION, EITHER FURTHER RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT FURTHER EXIM ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA. IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME TO ASSESS CHANCES OF SUCH EFFORTS.

3. CLARK REPORT, ISSUED JANUARY 25 HAS HEIGHTENED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE LEGISLATION AFFECTING US ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, NEITHER CLARK NOR ANY OTHER SENATORS HAVE PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR THIS SESSION, AND CLARK HAS INDICATED THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO INTRODUCE ANY LEGISLATION ON SA DURING BALANCE OF THIS CONGRESS.

4. DEPARTMENT IS MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS ON HILL CLOSELY AND WILL KEEP POSTS INFORMED. AF/S IS ALSO POUCHING TO ADDRESSEES SUMMARIES OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND RESOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD, IF ENACTED, FOCUS ON OR CONFIDENTIAL

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AFFECT US-SA RELATIONS.

5. DRAWING ON LEGISLATIVE PICTURE SKETCHED ABOVE, YOU MAY WISH TO ADVISE WILLIAMS AND OTHERS WHO INQUIRE THAT RUMOR OF IMPENDING IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS AT THE LEAST PREMATURE AND ALMOST CERTAINLY EXAGGERATED. VANCE

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